



2016 CAJM Rally

40 Days of Prayer in Preparation for the Nehemiah Action

God, who seeks wholeness in a world broken by our hands,

We call out to you in the silence of prayer,

For the news is too hurtful to hear.

Another has fallen at the hands of a those called to keep peace;

Another has suffered injustice at the hands of one called to protect;

We are shocked by the knowledge that fear and racism are still alive today.

We are silenced that such could be true,

And we realize that the silence has been our own.

We call out to you in whispers,

Who can treat another person like they are invisible?

Who can hold someone down so they cannot breathe?

Who can imprison another's spirit in poverty or in discrimination?

Who can beat their brother in secret long enough to kill?

We know the words that must be said to break down the prisons,

And we understand that the whispers have been our own.

We call out to you in screams of mourning,

From parents who grieve beloved children;

From families that cry out for justice in a society that does not hear them;

From neighbors and strangers who weep because they feel the scar from their own pains;

From officers of peace who serve communities suffering from broken trust.

We seek to comfort, but find that we need to atone as well,

And we feel our own tears wet on our cheeks.

We call out to you shouts against injustice:

And we say, "Never again."

Let no one fear walking down the street with friends;
Let no one look over their shoulders in fear of retribution;
Let no one feel the yoke of oppression placed by privilege;
Let no one be treated as less than the creator's gift because of the colors of their body.

And we say, "Never again."

Let us learn how to say we are sorry for the wrongs of yesterday.
Let us set aside the banners that witnessed enslavement and torture.
Let us find new ways to heal old wounds enflamed by today's actions.
Let us find honest words that admit our own participation in the brokenness,

And we cry out to our sisters and brothers, "Forgive us!"

And we cry out to strangers and neighbors, "Forgive us!"

And we cry out to our own wounded spirit, "Forgive us!"

Forgive us, O God, and help us to find your path of peace with justice.

Speak to all the people, and teach us how to heal the breaches.

This is our prayer today and always, in Your name. **Amen.**

Rev. Henry E. "Hank" Fairman

Little River UCC, Annandale

Nehemiah Action
Monday, April 24, 2017
7:00 PM
Mt. Moriah Baptist Church, N Charleston



CAJM is a network of 30 faith-based congregations who come together with one goal: to make the Charleston area more just. We

are religiously, socio-economically, geographically, and racially diverse and together, we speak with one powerful voice for justice for our community.

CAJM's work is supported by the following corporate investors:

Law Offices of Arthur C. McFarland



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